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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MOSCOW 16215

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FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

TTBT/PNE MESSAGE NUMBER THIRTY-THREE

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: US, UR, PARM, OEXD
SUBJ: STATUS OF TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS AS OF COB OCT 24

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SINCE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF OCTOBER 21, WE HAVE OBTAINED USEFUL INFORMATION FROM SOVIETS ON YIELD RANGED OF THEIR ANTICIPATED PNES, AND CLARIFICATION THAT PARTICIPATION THEY ENVISAGE UNDER A BROAD BILATERAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WOULD INCLUDE BOTH R & D AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION OF PNES. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT MODIFIED THEIR INITIAL STATEMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO LIMITS ON YIELDS AND NUMBERS OF PNES, THEY HAVE REVEALED THAT THEY PLAN ONLY A FEW PNES OVER THE THRESHOLD PER YEAR. THEY HAVE ALSO CLARIFIED THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR VERIFICATION ON PNES UNDER THE THRESHOLD. THEY HAVE ALSO REINTRODUCED THE QUESTION OF OBSERVERS IN PLENARY, ASKING FOR OUR VIEWS OF THEIR ROLE WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING ANY COMMITMENT. AS A RESULT OF PROGRESS TO DATE THE DELEGATION JUDGES THAT IT MIGHT DERIVE FURTHER USEFUL INFORMATION BY CONTINUING UNDER PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS; HOWEVER, FOR MORE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS, ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE IS PROBABLY NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.
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2. THE SOVIET POSITION ON VERIFICATION APPEARS TO BE:

-- FOR SHOTS ABOVE 150 KT, NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS (NTM) PLUS ADVANCE INFORMATION ON PURPOSE, PLACE, YIELD AND TIME, AND ACTUAL YIELD AND RESULTS AFTER A SHOT. SCOPE OF INFORMATION ON "PURPOSE" IS NOT CLEAR, BUT IS IMPLIED TO INCLUDE DEPTH AND OTHER DATA ASSISTING VERIFICATION.

-- FOR SHOTS BELOW 150 KT, NTM PLUS "ADVANCE INFORMATION TO GIVE ASSURANCE" FOR SPECIFIC EXPLOSIONS WHICH DETONATING SIDE FEELS MIGHT BE MISREAD AS OVER 150 KT BY VERIFYING SIDE.

-- FOR ALL OTHER SHOTS BELOW 150 KT, NTM ALONE.

-- UNDER BROADER BILATERAL PNE AGREEMENT, ADDITIONAL DATA TO AID VERIFICATION WOULD BE PROVIDED AND "REPRESENTATIVES" COULD BE PRESENT. RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS OF "REPRESENTATIVES" AND NATURE OF ADDED DATA IS UNCLEAR; HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN STATED THAT ACCESS TO INFORMATION WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR ALL TYPES OF SHOTS.

3. SOVIET SIDE HAS PRESENTED THE RANGE OF MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM YIELDS THAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE OF PRACTICAL INTEREST FOR EACH PNE APPLICATION IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THESE FIGURES INDICATE THAT:

-- MAXIMUM YIELD OF CONTAINED PNES WILL BE 100 KT, THROUGH THIS DECADE.

-- SOME EXCAVATION PNES ARE ANTICIPATED WHICH WILL EXCEED 150 KT; HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS STATED THAT THE NUMBER OF SUCH SHOTS WOULD NOT BE BIG. MAXIMUM AGGREGATE YIELD FOR CANAL EXCAVATION SALVOS IS 500 KT, BUT SOME OVERBURDEN REMOVAL APPLICATIONS MIGHT INVOLVE AGGREGATE SALVO YIELDS UP TO 1 MT. (SOVIETS STATED EARLIER THAT ALL PNES SHOULD CONFORM WITH "GOALS" OF LTBT).

4. WITH REGARD TO STRUCTURE OF PNE AGREEMENT, SOVIETS

HAVE NOT REJECTED IDEA OF LIMITED AGREEMENT DEALING ONLY WITH VERIFICATION OF PNES UNDER ARTICLE III OF TTBT, BUT HAVE EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR BROAD COOPERATIVE PNE AGREEMENT WHICH, IN THEIR VIEW, WOULD INCLUDE:

-- MINIMAL LIMITATIONS ON PNES.

-- PROVISIONS FOR JOINT PARTICIPATION IN PNE PROJECTS,

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INCLUDING BOTH R & D AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS, WHICH THEY CLAIM WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VERIFICATION AND REMOVE THE OBSERVER PROBLEM.

THEY HAVE STATED THAT FURTHER DETAILS, WHICH WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THIS APPROACH MORE FULLY, WOULD BE PROVIDED AFTER INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.

5. TTBT/PNE DELEGATION PLANS TO CONTINUE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

-- SEEK CLARIFICATION OF SOVIET PLANS ON CONTAINED AND EXCAVATION APPLICATIONS (E.G., YIELDS AND NUMBERS OF EXPLOSIONS IN SALVOS).

-- CONTINUE EFFORTS TO EXTRACT INFORMATION ON SOVIET VIEWS ON VERIFICATION.

-- PRESENT BRIEFING, AS REQUESTED BY SOVIETS, ON RIO BLANCO.
STOESSEL

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